

**Harris County Archives
Houston, Texas**

Finding Aid

**HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
CR28
(1938 - 1998)**

Size: 4 cubic feet

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Acquisition: Harris County Hospital
District, December 2003.

Accession Number: 2003.015

Processed by: Chris LaVerne; Sarah
Canby Jackson, 2006

Citation: [Identification of Item], Harris County Hospital District, Harris County
Archives, Houston, Texas.

Agency History :

In 1888 the Harris County Commissioners Court contracted with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and St. Joseph's Infirmary to care for the county's indigent population. Soon after World War I, the City of Houston converted the unused buildings at Camp Logan into an indigent hospital. Several years later, the county and city agreed jointly to fund the construction and operation of a new charity institution, Jeff Davis Hospital on Elder Street, which opened in 1924. In 1938 a larger, modern Jeff Davis Hospital was built on Buffalo Drive to replace the older building. However, squabbles over equitable funding continued to erupt annually between the city and the county. Public health care for the indigent and needy suffered greatly as a result. By the mid-1960s indigent care in Harris County had reached a crisis point. In November 1965, a voter referendum created the Harris County Hospital District which replaced the City of Houston and Harris County joint funding system.

The Hospital District is governed by a nine-member Board of Managers appointed by the Harris County Commissioners Court to two-year extendable terms. The Board of Managers meets monthly and concerns itself primarily with matters of policy with the Commissioners Court approving the Hospital District budget. The District's annual budget increased from \$23 million in 1966 to \$780 million in fiscal year 2006. The Harris County Hospital District is currently the fifth largest metropolitan public health care system in the country. In 2003, 6,500 employees handled 1.1 million emergency room and outpatient clinic visits and delivered over 10,600 newborns. The Hospital District provides services through 3 hospitals (Ben Taub, LBJ General, and Quentin

Mease), 2 specialty centers, 12 community health centers, 7 school based clinics and 4 eligibility centers.

Bibliography:

<http://www.hchdonline.com/>

Collection Summary:

Media files consisting of scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, photographs, and video tapes, document the history of the Harris County Hospital District and public health issues from 1938 – 1998. Photographs (1919 – 1958) of Camp Logan, Old Jeff Davis Hospital, New Jeff Davis Hospital, and the inspector's photographs record the hospital buildings prior to the creation of the Hospital District. Twenty-five pages of 35 mm. contact prints and two 8 x 10 inch prints (ca. 1990) document the activities of both patients and employees.

Archivist's Note:

All the scrapbooks and newspaper clipping files were reformatted for access purposes. The originals were discarded except for the 1938 – 1940 scrapbook and the photographs and clippings from a 1940 scrapbook.

The video tapes have not been cataloged.

The Harris County Archives has what may be an uncorrected proof of Jan De Hartog's highly influential work, *The Hospital*, published in 1964.

Inventory

Series: Media Files

Subseries: Scrapbooks and Newspaper Clippings

Title	Date	Location
Scrapbooks - reformatted	1938 - 1974	0353-X-00
Scrapbooks - reformatted	1975 – 1986, 05	0354-X-00
Scrapbooks - reformatted	1986, 06 - 1987	0355-X-00
Scrapbooks - reformatted	1988 - 1998	0356-X-00
Scrapbook	1938 – 1940	0373-X-00

Subseries: Photographs

Title	Date	Location
Camp Logan Barracks	ca. 1919	0005-P-00
Jeff Davis Hospital (Old)	ca. 1924	0003-P-08
Jeff Davis Hospital (New) - Aerial	ca. 1938	0005-P-00
Jeff Davis Hospital (New) Power Plant	ca. 1938	0005-P-00
Jeff Davis Hospital (New) Power Plant & Laundry	ca. 1938	0005-P-00
Jeff Davis Hospital (New)	ca. 1938	0005-P-00
Patients and Employees Harris County Hospital District	ca. 1990	0003-P-07
Pediatric Patients and Employees Harris County Hospital District	ca. 1990	0003-P-09
Jefferson Davis Hospital Houston, Texas / Showing the Deterioration of the Building	1958, 05	0003-P-10